

## **ECHO 2015 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes 3-3-2011**

Present: Co-Chairs Bob Staples and Doug Forsyth, members Jennifer Newell, Helen Kutz, and Debra Krittenbrink, and, staff Linda Price and Lisa Krieg.

Excused: Ann Way

Absent: Members Joan Greenleaf, Teresa Capps, Ginny Corson, and Richard Carter

Others present: OU nursing students Randy Haley, Teresa Bach, Kasey Lane, Sharon Roberts, and Jennifer Murphy, and citizen Mark Campbell.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Staples at 4:02 p.m.

### **UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) & CONTINUUM OF CARE APPLICATIONS FOR 2010**

All of our shelters are consistently spending their ESG funds. Their approved grants were as follows: Bridges (\$50,000), Food & Shelter for Friends (\$50,000), East Main Place (\$75,000), Thunderbird Clubhouse (\$20,000), The Salvation Army (\$20,000), and the Women's Resource Center (\$50,000). COCAA also was funded. Monitoring by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce is scheduled for all grants on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Continuum of Care renewals were funded. We still have no word on the new applications.

The application was submitted electronically for a total of \$261,746. This included:

- \$79,368 for the renewal of the Shelter Plus Care application for HOPE Community Services
- \$23,786 for a new Supportive Housing Program Bonus for Food & Shelter for Friends
- \$51,337 for a renewal of the Supportive Housing Program Outreach grant for Food & Shelter for Friends
- \$63,360 for a new Supportive Housing Program Chronic grant for Food & Shelter for Friends
- \$43,895 for a renewal of the Supportive Housing Program SSO for East Main Place

### **UPDATE ON STATUS OF STIMULUS FUNDING FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included funding for a new program titled the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program. The Norman/Cleveland County Continuum of Care committee voted to have the City of Norman make application for the group, and a proposal was submitted to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) in July for \$498,000 +. ODOC forwarded the contract to the City in October. This is a three year program and the City is 18 months into the program. An annual progress review was completed in December 2010 by

ODOC. It was noted that 60% of the funds are required to be spent by July 2011, and we will meet that requirement. Food & Shelter has substantially increased the quantity of clients receiving these services after some reorganization was made.

### **DISCUSSION ON THE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM THAT IS REPLACING THE EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT PROGRAM IN 2011**

The Hearth Act, passed by Congress in 2010, streamlined and consolidated homeless programs. Some of the changes were related to the ESG program that will now be the Emergency Solutions Program. The new rules require that 40% of funds be for prevention services such as rent and utility assistance. The requirements of allowable expenditures of the other 60% of the grant have been somewhat loosened. We expect applications from Food & Shelter, East Main Place, The Salvation Army, the Women's Resource Center, Thunderbird Clubhouse, and Bridges. The Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency will also submit an application separately.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE JANUARY 2011 POINT IN TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS**

HUD mandates that a count of the homeless be taken every two years the last week in January. Norman does a count every year in January, with the 2011 count taken from midnight January 26/27 through midnight January 27/28.

The count indicated 836 homeless persons without numbers received from Red Rock. However, 83 school age children were reported in shelters and are presumed to be double counted because of their inclusion in the Norman Public Schools number of 301. Therefore, the net count is 753. 625 of the 753 were unsheltered and 125 sheltered; 84 were chronic; and 6 were veterans. 461 were under 18 years old.

It was noted that this number is higher than last year even though this year HUD did not allow the inclusion of people in permanent supportive housing as were included in the past. Last year there were 20-25 included in that category.

It was also noted that the Department of Human Services (DHS) data base of 144 homeless included only 9 children. It is believed that homeless families with children did not admit to being homeless for fear of losing their children, or they were in shelters and did not realize that they were still considered homeless. That was somewhat confirmed by the information provided by those families in shelters who were receiving DHS assistance.

### **MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

- Mark Campbell talked about weather radios and told the committee some of his background as a consumer of services in Norman.
- The next quarterly meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on June 2, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.